

EXHIBIT NO. JTX-028 evid.
CAUSE NO. 3:22cv0734-DPJ-HSO-LHS
WITNESS _____
CLERK: SHONE POWELL

FEB 26 2024

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

Candice Crane, REPORTER

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
Hearing on 08/16/2021

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TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO-RECORDED
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 16, 2021
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
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<p align="center">Page 2</p> <p>1 MR. BECKETT: All right. I think it's, um, time 2 now would be a typical start. It's 5:00 o'clock. 3 [Inaudible] I know that we have several people that 4 are have [inaudible] obligations tonight, and I want 5 to thank each of you for being here. 6 But as you know, the Joint Committee hold public 7 hearings to receive, uh, suggestions and 8 recommendations on how the PCS legislature should re- 9 district itself, and its four Congressional districts. 10 During the course of the hearing, my chair will 11 offer members of the public an opportunity to give 12 comments to the committee or to give statements to the 13 committee about our upcoming redistricting efforts. 14 And by custom, we try to give our members of the 15 public a free opportunity to say what they wish. In 16 case it appear that there are going to be many persons 17 who are speaking, we do limit their time, uh, as to 18 what time limit we impose, will be up to me as chair 19 depending on how many persons want to speak, and, um, 20 just -- I mean you all are free to say what you would 21 like, but I do want to mention one thing that we do 22 have a municipal or county redistricting and we've had 23 a lot of comments or questions [inaudible] in the past 24 about those hearings. And it's not that we're not 25 insensitive to those issues and concerns that people</p>	<p align="center">Page 4</p> <p>1 just want to remind you that, uh, that we will do not 2 have to have a forum in order to take this testimony. 3 The roll is taken for the purpose of just documenting 4 who is present. 5 And so that's -- that's our purpose for doing 6 that. At this time, I was thinking [inaudible] that 7 was not present, and in addition to the committee 8 members, uh, we have two other members that I see, Mr. 9 Sam Nail and Mr. Robert Johnson. 10 And we want to thank you all for you all's 11 attendance and, uh, at this meeting, I -- I believe if 12 there's anyone else that's -- present, I want to thank 13 our host institution here for this facility that they 14 have been made available to us and just for -- just 15 for the hospitality and this is -- is [inaudible] we 16 travel around the state and have an opportunity 17 primarily to visit our institutions of higher learning 18 and our community colleges. 19 And, uh, that's what most of our facilities are 20 and we thank -- we thank [inaudible] and the staff for 21 all the work they've done in setting these -- these 22 meetings up. [inaudible] in preparation for the 23 meeting itself and the work -- the work on the 24 redistricting, uh, numbers. 25 So we go on with this meeting, once again, I want</p>
<p align="center">Page 3</p> <p>1 have, but it's outside of our purview. 2 So at this time as chair of the committee, I want 3 to call the public -- the public hearing of the Joint 4 Reapportionment Committee and Joint Congressional 5 Redistricting Committee to order and asked our counsel 6 to call the roll of members present. 7 COUNSEL: Mr. Beckett. 8 MR. BECKETT: Here. 9 COUNSEL: Mr. Blackburn. Mr. Brown. Mr. Subanks. 10 Mr. Ford. 11 MR. FORD: Here. 12 COUNSEL: Mr. Mangold. Mr. Read. 13 MR. READ: Here. 14 COUNSEL: Mr. Shanks. 15 MR. SHANKS: Here. 16 COUNSEL: Mr. Taylor. 17 MR. TAYLOR: Here. 18 COUNSEL: Mr. White. Mr. Kirby? 19 MR. KIRBY: Here. 20 COUNSEL: Mr. Bryan. Mr. DeHar. Mr. Hawkins. Mr. 21 Hopson. 22 MR. HOPSON: Here. 23 COUNSEL: Mr. Parker. Mr. Simmons. Mr. Tate. Ms. 24 Turner-Ford. Mr. Higgins. 25 MR. BECKETT: All right. Thank you. Uh, and I</p>	<p align="center">Page 5</p> <p>1 to thank our staff and graciously going through the 2 transcripts of the meetings of 2010 and the meetings 3 that we've had from our -- this is the sixth hearing 4 out of nine that in this series of this year. 5 And they've gone through and they've gotten some 6 of the things that are more commonly asked and more 7 common concerns that people have and kind of listed 8 those. 9 And I'm going to cover those and hopefully even 10 if you don't ask a question about them, I want a 11 statement about that [inaudible] and it might answer a 12 concern or at least provide some information that you 13 don't have, that you don't have. 14 One thing is, uh, why do we redistrict, and I 15 need to point, uh, that both the federal 16 constitutional requires a one person one vote requires 17 us to redistrict both the Congressional districts and 18 the Legislative districts every 10 years following the 19 Census. Additionally, Section 254 of our Constitution 20 of 1915 requires that we -- requires redistricting in 21 our legislature. 22 So, it's -- although it may be a painful process 23 and it maybe a process that everyone doesn't 24 necessarily enjoy, uh, but going through it, the end 25 result is something that is required -- required by law</p>

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<p align="right">Page 6</p> <p>1 to be done.</p> <p>2 Uh, the other thing is you know, when -- when</p> <p>3 we're commencing redistricting and I just want you all</p> <p>4 to know that redistricting has started. Additionally,</p> <p>5 I guess [inaudible] I guess it really started with the</p> <p>6 taking of the Census, if you want to know the truth</p> <p>7 about that, that's actually when it started.</p> <p>8 But this committee, uh, was organized back around</p> <p>9 July, that time frame and as I said, this is the sixth</p> <p>10 in the series of nine -- nine meetings that we're</p> <p>11 going to be having going around the state. And so,</p> <p>12 redistricting has started.</p> <p>13 We are at the beginning of a process, not near</p> <p>14 the finish line, but we are -- we are just -- we are</p> <p>15 just beginning. And you know, uh, the qualifying</p> <p>16 deadline of next year, uh, for Congressional</p> <p>17 redistricting, our efforts in the Congressional</p> <p>18 redistricting will come first and -- and will occur</p> <p>19 during the fall of this year.</p> <p>20 We will be working on our -- on the Legislative --</p> <p>21 -- legislature during the months of the 2022</p> <p>22 [inaudible] session. So, in January, February and</p> <p>23 March, we'll be working on Legislative redistricting.</p> <p>24 We have a little more time for those before</p> <p>25 qualifying. It will be a little over a year later on</p>	<p align="right">Page 8</p> <p>1 On, and you'll notice that this -- the ideal size</p> <p>2 for House district, and the ideal size for a Senate</p> <p>3 district and for our House district is, uh, around</p> <p>4 28,273 people and you can have -- using a five percent</p> <p>5 deviation room, you can either be up or down from</p> <p>6 that.</p> <p>7 For Senate, we're looking at 56,948. The same</p> <p>8 thing, it could be up or down, but please note that</p> <p>9 the Congressional districts, uh, we're looking at</p> <p>10 740,320 people, with zero deviation.</p> <p>11 So, you'll notice that, on, as we're moving</p> <p>12 along, you'll see that all the Mississippi House and</p> <p>13 Senate districts are not going to be identical in</p> <p>14 size. They're going to be within that deviation, but</p> <p>15 the -- but the Congressional districts, uh, don't</p> <p>16 allow for deviation so they'll all be within -- when</p> <p>17 basically one vote of each other, so they will be</p> <p>18 extremely close.</p> <p>19 Uh, you know, in doing that, we will use every</p> <p>20 effort possible to -- to not have [inaudible]</p> <p>21 precincts, they're not the same.</p> <p>22 So, one question we normally get are [inaudible]</p> <p>23 we may draw a family that doesn't have any [inaudible]</p> <p>24 but after we get through then the counties are going</p> <p>25 to draw their districts and they're going to be</p>
<p align="right">Page 7</p> <p>1 those.</p> <p>2 Uh, you know, why -- why do we have to make</p> <p>3 changes to district because of population shifts, uh,</p> <p>4 you know, we will be required to make changes and, uh,</p> <p>5 we're going to face challenges in making the changes.</p> <p>6 As we go across the state, there are certain</p> <p>7 parts of the state, you can see all of these</p> <p>8 [inaudible] have lost population [inaudible] in some</p> <p>9 areas, a fewer areas, but there are some areas that</p> <p>10 have gained population. And then a lot of the state</p> <p>11 has stayed relatively close to what they had before.</p> <p>12 They gained or lost a small amount. But through</p> <p>13 all of that, all of those instances cause problems for</p> <p>14 us and because -- they're a unique set of</p> <p>15 difficulties, whether your area is gaining population</p> <p>16 or whether your area is losing population, it becomes</p> <p>17 -- it becomes difficult to draw the districts.</p> <p>18 We have to be here in the southwestern part of</p> <p>19 the state, if you notice, there's been a population</p> <p>20 loss in a lot of this area. I think many of the</p> <p>21 counties around it are -- there are a couple of</p> <p>22 districts that show a loss.</p> <p>23 Some districts or counties have lost more than</p> <p>24 others. But overall, we're looking at a loss of</p> <p>25 population in this part of the state.</p>	<p align="right">Page 9</p> <p>1 increasing lots, which they're going to split some of</p> <p>2 the districts -- some of the districts we're going to</p> <p>3 draw will not be split, then they're going to change</p> <p>4 the lines and there will actually be split precincts.</p> <p>5 And they're required to do that. It's not like</p> <p>6 they're doing it just because they want to, but</p> <p>7 they're required.</p> <p>8 In most cases, if their districts are smaller</p> <p>9 than ours, and they're just going to go -- will</p> <p>10 require some changing and moving around.</p> <p>11 Uh, you know, we started this process with Census</p> <p>12 estimates and you might ask why we even started this</p> <p>13 just because we had delays -- there were delays in</p> <p>14 processing the Census data.</p> <p>15 And the actual numbers that we use in</p> <p>16 redistricting were not available when starting this</p> <p>17 process and we couldn't wait any longer because the</p> <p>18 time frame that we had to do the redistricting, those</p> <p>19 estimates had been used in the past.</p> <p>20 They're [inaudible] to show us what areas of the</p> <p>21 state have gained population, lost population, but</p> <p>22 they're not useful or can't be used to draw districts.</p> <p>23 We started out with any precinct data, basically.</p> <p>24 The committee has received the numbers Thursday</p> <p>25 or Friday of last week and they're in the process of</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 using that data, and new maps [inaudible] are due and 2 are based on the finished data that they received, 3 which I need to tell you that September 30th is the 4 absolute drop-dead date that say, I would say, 5 anything that might have to be changed in the data 6 will be changed by then.</p> <p>7 We don't anticipate there will be any changes and 8 if there are changes, we anticipate minor changes. But 9 just know that by September 30th, we will -- there 10 will not be any more changes.</p> <p>11 More than likely they'll look exactly like these 12 -- these numbers we have right here. Um, you know, the 13 other thing is, you know, how many members of the 14 public participate in this process, and there's 15 several ways.</p> <p>16 One is by discussing their concerns at this 17 meeting. We're here to hear your concerns this evening 18 and we will listen to any matter that you wish to 19 bring to our attention about how and where we draw 20 Congressional and Legislative districts.</p> <p>21 Um, we want to let the public know that you must 22 sign the card with your name so the committee can call 23 on you.</p> <p>24 So, if you have questions you would like or a 25 statement you would like, not questions, but if you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 things that -- that seem to bother people all around 2 the state.</p> <p>3 Um, but, you know, just want to remind you that, 4 uh, that the rules of the House covered in Joint 5 Committee, and we will handle such matters as the 6 House would handle them.</p> <p>7 Um, if I have a member of the public contact the 8 committee to provide information or to book time on 9 the public access computers, uh, and I'm going to read 10 these even though you all have the written information 11 in front of you.</p> <p>12 Um, I'm reading it for the benefit of those who 13 are watching on our webcast and so everybody doesn't 14 have the benefit of having the information in front of 15 them. So, that way we ask that we identify ourselves 16 and these things.</p> <p>17 But do you have any comments that you want to 18 [inaudible] send them to Ted Booth, Staff Counsel, 19 Joint Reapportionment Committee, PO Box 1204, Jackson, 20 Mississippi, 39215-1204, or send emails to 21 ted.booth@speaker.ms.gov.</p> <p>22 And please provide information for the staff to 23 follow up, such as email address or telephone numbers. 24 We've had people that have sent things in without any 25 way to contact them back. And so in order to help the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 have statement you would like to make, that is what we 2 are here for, to take your statements and -- and your 3 opinions about things, uh, please ask the staff, let 4 her know that you would like to -- that you have a 5 comment and ask for a card, and turn it in with your 6 name on it, uh, and so we'll -- we'll -- let's see 7 then we'll call you.</p> <p>8 You can also submit any suggestions to the 9 committee in writing or by email, uh, and you can, uh, 10 take advantage of the opportunity to use the 11 committee's public access computer terminals.</p> <p>12 They'll be a time that I'll set out that you can 13 do that. In this hearing, what kind of concerns does 14 the committee need to hear from the public and that's 15 basically anything that's on your mind is the simple 16 answer.</p> <p>17 Um, we may have heard it from someone else and we 18 may have heard it at another location. But, if it's 19 your concern, then we want to hear it from you. Um, 20 just as an example of some things that we've heard in 21 the past, we've heard Voting Rights Act concerns.</p> <p>22 We've heard concerns about splitting precincts. 23 We've heard concerns about splitting up of 24 municipalities. We've heard concerns about districts 25 that are odd shaped. In short, we've heard most of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 staff so they can reply, please then put your email or 2 your address on that.</p> <p>3 Um, the public access for Congressional 4 redistricting will commence following the delivery of 5 the final PL 94-171 data, which should come to close 6 in September. The public access will last for three 7 weeks, uh, so it will be three weeks from the first of 8 September and for the Legislature, for the state 9 legislature, will occur after January 1, 2022 and last 10 for three weeks.</p> <p>11 Um, do I have any members of the committee that 12 [inaudible] We're going to -- at this time, we're 13 going to open it up for any comments that we might 14 have and do I have -- uh, Ms. Frazier. I didn't want 15 to mispronounce that, so I apologize.</p> <p>16 MS. FRAZIER: As you said, I'm [inaudible] and 17 I'm here as a representative of the -- as a member of 18 the [inaudible] Mississippi [inaudible] NAACP and 19 representing the state conference of the NAACP.</p> <p>20 The redistricting process is a critical component 21 of the Democratic process at the local, state and 22 federal level. The citizens of Congressional District 23 3 and across the state have a right to voice their 24 concerns and opinions about the nature of the drawing 25 of district lines that ensure fair maps.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 The issue of voter suppression across District 3</p> <p>2 in the state raises concerns, questions about the</p> <p>3 electoral process, including the lack of fair</p> <p>4 districts and a woman's right to choose their own</p> <p>5 political representation, and not the opposite.</p> <p>6 Mississippi is one of the most restrictive states</p> <p>7 in the nation for voters and [inaudible]. Laws and</p> <p>8 practices that limit our fundamental rights to engage</p> <p>9 in political processes, excuse me, limit our</p> <p>10 fundamental rights to engage in the political process.</p> <p>11 This state's lack of online voter registration, early</p> <p>12 voter registration programs and an absentee voting</p> <p>13 system that requires many steps provides to be</p> <p>14 extremely burdensome for voters.</p> <p>15 The COVID-19 pandemic made it even worse. Many</p> <p>16 states have implemented the ballot drop program and</p> <p>17 other efforts to ensure the safety of both voters and</p> <p>18 the election of elected officials before the 2020</p> <p>19 election.</p> <p>20 Mississippi could have done the same thing to</p> <p>21 increase safety and access by developing early voting</p> <p>22 programs and other measures that were made -- would</p> <p>23 have made limited -- eliminated long lines and close</p> <p>24 contact on election day, but we did not.</p> <p>25 Instead we passed legislation allowing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 state legislature that I've ever attended. So, I'm new</p> <p>2 at this and I'm learning.</p> <p>3 So, if I'm going in the wrong direction, please</p> <p>4 put me back on the track, and I just simply have</p> <p>5 questions concerning the process. When you draw these</p> <p>6 Legislative and Congressional lines, the legislature</p> <p>7 gets together and they do that. Am I correct?</p> <p>8 So, after that, then you make that presentation</p> <p>9 to whom or do you just draw these lines, you vote on</p> <p>10 it and it's put in place. Does the public have an</p> <p>11 opportunity to see what you have put together prior to</p> <p>12 anything being enacted?</p> <p>13 MR. BECKETT: The representative would.</p> <p>14 MR. JOHNSON: In answer to your -- as</p> <p>15 representative of this area, in answer to your</p> <p>16 question, the legislature will -- these hearings we</p> <p>17 have and hear your testimony, but we'll go back to the</p> <p>18 legislature.</p> <p>19 This Committee will work on lines and draw up</p> <p>20 lines and then we as a legislature will vote on</p> <p>21 whether or not and accept whatever the presentation</p> <p>22 is.</p> <p>23 But as a citizen, if you don't agree with what is</p> <p>24 adopted by the legislature, you have standing, not as</p> <p>25 an individual, but as a group, you have standing to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 individuals who contacted the viruses, or were</p> <p>2 caregivers to use this as an excuse to vote by</p> <p>3 absentee ballot. This caused more confusion for</p> <p>4 citizens and election workers who then had to put</p> <p>5 their own health at risk to provide ballots for</p> <p>6 individuals with the virus.</p> <p>7 Voter suppression comes in many forms with the</p> <p>8 most pressing issue being voter [inaudible].</p> <p>9 Gerrymandering and polling places closed and then</p> <p>10 confusion is created on Election Day.</p> <p>11 Without measures to remedy these problems, voter</p> <p>12 suppression will remain a threat to the Democratic</p> <p>13 process in Mississippi. The citizens of Adams County</p> <p>14 deserve a fair voting process that [inaudible].</p> <p>15 The development of fair district lines at the</p> <p>16 local, state and federal level can help to reduce</p> <p>17 voter suppression and help us create an electoral</p> <p>18 process that offers us a right to full [inaudible] to</p> <p>19 full and unimpeded political participation. Thank you</p> <p>20 for your concern.</p> <p>21 MR. BECKETT: Thank you. [inaudible]</p> <p>22 MS. MORROW: How is everyone this evening?</p> <p>23 MR. BECKETT: [inaudible]</p> <p>24 MS. MORROW: I'm not very familiar with this</p> <p>25 process. This is the first public hearing before the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 challenge that redistricting process.</p> <p>2 But that will be your only chance to do that</p> <p>3 unless you come to the legislature and sit in on</p> <p>4 meetings and talk to me and talk to other people and</p> <p>5 tell them what you disagree with about it.</p> <p>6 MS. MORROW: Okay. So, why are we having these</p> <p>7 hearings?</p> <p>8 MR. BECKETT: We're having these --</p> <p>9 MS. MORROW: What are you teaching me and --</p> <p>10 MR. BECKETT: We're having these hearings for the</p> <p>11 purpose of hearing your concerns and your input before</p> <p>12 decisions are made about how the districts are drawn</p> <p>13 and not someone's concerns after they're drawn.</p> <p>14 The purpose is to -- for people to identify how --</p> <p>15 -- how they would like the districts to be drawn, what</p> <p>16 you felt like adequate representation in your area</p> <p>17 would look like and whether -- whether you -- what</p> <p>18 communities, what's been done in the past that you</p> <p>19 don't like.</p> <p>20 Um, how you would like for -- things you would</p> <p>21 like the Committee to consider as they're drawing the</p> <p>22 districts. That's the purpose of the hearings.</p> <p>23 MS. MORROW: Okay. I'm still having some</p> <p>24 reservations. I didn't introduce myself. My name is</p> <p>25 Bobby Bingham Morrow and I am representing the NACP</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 Vicksburg branch.</p> <p>2 I, from what you -- the two gentlemen just said</p> <p>3 to me, you're stating -- you're saying that this is my</p> <p>4 opportunity to have input into what you do.</p> <p>5 After you leave here, you're going to go and</p> <p>6 you're going to draw these lines and you're going to</p> <p>7 go ahead and vote and put these put these lines in</p> <p>8 place. So, this will be law.</p> <p>9 This will be what the lines are and then I'm</p> <p>10 given the opportunity to come in and -- and protest or</p> <p>11 -- or show my agreement with what you've done. Is that</p> <p>12 what you're saying to me?</p> <p>13 MR. JOHNSON: No, let me be clear. You don't --</p> <p>14 you don't protest. You -- you -- what we anticipate is</p> <p>15 if you're dissatisfied with the way the lines are</p> <p>16 drawn, and as a citizen, like in the Third District, I</p> <p>17 anticipate that these gentlemen will draw a</p> <p>18 Congressional district that I won't agree with.</p> <p>19 And so, I'll be interested in talking to people</p> <p>20 and citizens who will be interested in -- in filing a</p> <p>21 legal action to challenge the way those lines are</p> <p>22 drawn. You know, Shaw versus, uh, Tennessee or</p> <p>23 Memphis, there have been a number of cases where</p> <p>24 people have challenged because of, uh, they violated</p> <p>25 the Voting Rights Act or they're not contiguous or</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 some of these concerns and then we'll go back and</p> <p>2 we'll -- we'll work and vote on whatever the</p> <p>3 recommendations are that they come back, but your</p> <p>4 ability to agree or disagree will be through your</p> <p>5 legislative representation or through some legal</p> <p>6 action that will come after we adopt something.</p> <p>7 MS. MORROW: I'm still having problems with that,</p> <p>8 but I -- I guess I'll -- I'll just I'll -- I'll -- I'll</p> <p>9 talk to my representatives about that. But -- but I do</p> <p>10 want to make this point, is that there should be an</p> <p>11 opportunity. This is one of my disagreements.</p> <p>12 My disagreement is that there should be another</p> <p>13 opportunity after you have come to an agreement on the</p> <p>14 lines that you are going to draw, there should be an</p> <p>15 opportunity for the public to have input at that point</p> <p>16 because hopefully, especially in my case, I will know</p> <p>17 enough, I will know a little bit more about</p> <p>18 redistricting based on the numbers that we've received</p> <p>19 from the Census.</p> <p>20 And I'll know enough to ask what I would consider</p> <p>21 intelligent questions that would affect the community</p> <p>22 as a whole.</p> <p>23 I'm -- I'm speaking to you just from the</p> <p>24 standpoint of where I stand on redistricting trying to</p> <p>25 learn more about it, but I just think that -- that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 compact or the lines not drawn.</p> <p>2 But you know, there will be discussions later.</p> <p>3 Let me tell you -- let me say this. The unfairness of</p> <p>4 what's happening now is that the -- the legislature is</p> <p>5 trying to have open hearings and talk to you about</p> <p>6 redistricting, but you don't have the benefit of</p> <p>7 knowing enough about redistricting when we have these</p> <p>8 kind of meetings to come in and ask all the</p> <p>9 appropriate questions.</p> <p>10 But you see all the people sitting here. What I</p> <p>11 would suggest to you is that as you listen to this,</p> <p>12 contact your representatives and -- and get more</p> <p>13 information. And as this process is going on, you can</p> <p>14 talk to the people, for instance if you're in</p> <p>15 Vicksburg, you're either represented by</p> <p>16 MS. MORROW: Mr. Hopson.</p> <p>17 MR. JOHNSON: I forgot about my good friend, Mr.</p> <p>18 Senator Hopson. But yeah, you talk to them about what</p> <p>19 your concerns are, what you'd like to see happen but</p> <p>20 that's going on in the process.</p> <p>21 But yeah, when we leave here, we go in as a</p> <p>22 legislature because we're a representative</p> <p>23 legislature. And we take the information we've</p> <p>24 gathered here.</p> <p>25 I'm not on the committee but I will listen to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 just for the basic citizen, every one of us should</p> <p>2 have another opportunity to come and voice our opinion</p> <p>3 on the lines that you have drawn. Please allow us</p> <p>4 that. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. BECKETT: That's it. All right. That's the</p> <p>6 only two, uh, requests that I had at this time. Is</p> <p>7 there anyone on the committee who would like to say</p> <p>8 anything?</p> <p>9 HALE: May I say something real quick?</p> <p>10 MR. BECKETT: Yeah, sure, sure.</p> <p>11 HALE: We have by the way as the chairman said,</p> <p>12 we have a lot of people that are watching online. We</p> <p>13 have had some that have had COVID. We have some that</p> <p>14 have had other issues, plus a long way from Tupelo or</p> <p>15 Corinth to here.</p> <p>16 So, um, so, you know, so we have some --</p> <p>17 everyone's watching including the Lieutenant</p> <p>18 Governor's staff. But said all that to say that I'm</p> <p>19 seeing Dave Deering here makes me miss Bob Deering.</p> <p>20 So's -- glad you're here.</p> <p>21 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman?</p> <p>22 MR. BECKETT: Sure.</p> <p>23 MR. JOHNSON: Since, I'm at home and people don't</p> <p>24 see me as much as they need to, I'm going to say a few</p> <p>25 words.</p>

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Hearing on 08/16/2021

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<p>1 MR. BECKETT: All right. You're welcome to.</p> <p>2 MR. JOHNSON: Uh, just as a background, so on</p> <p>3 redistricting, Mississippi is one of the state's</p> <p>4 either 33 of 29 states that have to comply with what</p> <p>5 you call compactness and contiguity, which means</p> <p>6 that when you draw a line you just can't, you know,</p> <p>7 randomly draw things to benefit one side of the other.</p> <p>8 They have to make sense. And you also, even</p> <p>9 though we do -- don't have the Voting Rights Act, uh,</p> <p>10 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the way we used</p> <p>11 to, where you would have, uh, Justice Department pre-</p> <p>12 clearance before you adopt a plan.</p> <p>13 You still have to abide by, uh, the law that says</p> <p>14 you cannot dilute minority voting strength or the</p> <p>15 minority, uh, ability to elect people in the area. And</p> <p>16 so there's still in my opinion, as a lawyer, there's</p> <p>17 some question about what -- what does dilution mean?</p> <p>18 I -- I -- I feel like right now we have districts</p> <p>19 that are extremely polarized. And in that sense, with</p> <p>20 the overwhelming majority of one party or one race</p> <p>21 over another one in the legislature, I would suggest</p> <p>22 to you that that is a dilution of African-American</p> <p>23 voting strength. Some people would disagree with that</p> <p>24 but those are the kind of issues that you would bring</p> <p>25 up and those are the kind of issues that as your</p>	<p>1 So, all those things will come into</p> <p>2 consideration. But I have -- I have no interest and I</p> <p>3 will not stand by and I would hope that none of you</p> <p>4 would and see a district taken away or a district</p> <p>5 reduced.</p> <p>6 You want to continue to have, you know, the</p> <p>7 representation that you have, but you also want to be</p> <p>8 able to have a state legislature that reflects the</p> <p>9 population and the demographics in the state of</p> <p>10 Mississippi and that may require a -- a -- some</p> <p>11 disagreement with maybe where the lines are drawn or</p> <p>12 maybe the districts that are drawn.</p> <p>13 But you, the lady from Vicksburg, asked the</p> <p>14 correct question and have correct concerns about</p> <p>15 having some input before we adopt something and the</p> <p>16 only thing that's left for you is some legal action</p> <p>17 that you have to take, uh, on behalf of the citizens</p> <p>18 in your area or because you don't have the Department</p> <p>19 of Justice protection like we had.</p> <p>20 Hopefully, before adopt a plan, they'll pass a</p> <p>21 new, uh, Voting Rights Act in Congress, but right now,</p> <p>22 you don't have those protections.</p> <p>23 So, those are the kind of things we have to</p> <p>24 consider and those are the things between these</p> <p>25 hearings, uh, that when you leave here, and you</p>
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<p>1 representative, I would be talking about it in the</p> <p>2 legislation.</p> <p>3 Uh, but I can tell you that as a representative</p> <p>4 legislature, the legislature is always open. And even</p> <p>5 though we -- we may not come to you here in this</p> <p>6 district and have hearings, I always say that the most</p> <p>7 important thing you can do as a voter is to visit your</p> <p>8 legislature and have meetings and talk to the people</p> <p>9 who represent you and this is a critical time and it</p> <p>10 may take some sacrifice, but I would encourage people</p> <p>11 as we go through this redistricting process to attend</p> <p>12 some of those reapportionment meetings, and to be</p> <p>13 there.</p> <p>14 And to understand what's going on and to have</p> <p>15 some say in it. You may not be able to speak at the</p> <p>16 committee, but you can talk to your representative</p> <p>17 immediately after or on a break and have some input</p> <p>18 because this is a critical time.</p> <p>19 There have been reduction in population in -- in</p> <p>20 the Second Congressional District; there's been a</p> <p>21 slight increase in some other districts. There's been</p> <p>22 -- for instance, in Southwest Mississippi in the area</p> <p>23 that I and Sam Mills represent, there has been I think</p> <p>24 close to 10 percent reduction in population. I know in</p> <p>25 Adams County it has been.</p>	<p>1 understand.</p> <p>2 For instance, what you just said about having</p> <p>3 some input later, it's something that the chairman</p> <p>4 could -- can't consider whether or not once we adopt a</p> <p>5 plan, he may want to do another tour.</p> <p>6 Probably not, but he may want to just to answer</p> <p>7 some of those concerns. Those are the kinds of things</p> <p>8 that these hearings are good for. Here are the things</p> <p>9 that you say find inadequate or you're dissatisfied</p> <p>10 with and maybe we can make some corrections in this</p> <p>11 process.</p> <p>12 MR. BECKETT: All right. Anyone -- anyone else</p> <p>13 have anything?</p> <p>14 MR. JOHNSON: Representative Robert Johnson from</p> <p>15 District 94 since we're filming this for anybody that</p> <p>16 needs to know.</p> <p>17 FEMALE: [inaudible]</p> <p>18 MR. BECKETT: All right. Do you need -- do you</p> <p>19 have a card? The staff will give you one because we'll</p> <p>20 have a record then of who all</p> <p>21 MR. BOBSON: Mr. Chairman, while she comes</p> <p>22 forward, may I speak momentarily? Thank you.</p> <p>23 MR. BECKETT: Yeah. You're more than welcome to</p> <p>24 come on. We just need a name on the card for our</p> <p>25 records.</p>

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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<p>Page 26</p> <p>1 MR. BOPSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And</p> <p>2 Ms. Morrow is a constituent of mine and I know her and</p> <p>3 I think I will echo what Representative Johnson said,</p> <p>4 my friend from this neck of the woods.</p> <p>5 MR. JOHNSON: That's right.</p> <p>6 MR. BOPSON: You know we're here each of us are</p> <p>7 elected by the people of our districts and we want to</p> <p>8 be, uh, advised., we want to be told what the concerns</p> <p>9 that you have, and Bobby of course you can reach out</p> <p>10 to me anytime, speak to me about your concerns.</p> <p>11 And I think I speak for every legislator to say</p> <p>12 to say this is the beginning of that process where we</p> <p>13 listen to what is, uh, what concerns you — what you</p> <p>14 think about the old districts and what you think you</p> <p>15 might want a new district to appear like on the maps.</p> <p>16 And I think if memory serves me correct from the</p> <p>17 last time we did this 10 years ago, uh, there will be</p> <p>18 a time when the maps and the districts are drawn and</p> <p>19 there was that period we had maps actually posted at</p> <p>20 the capitol, uh, for people to — to, uh, we didn't</p> <p>21 have hearings around the state, but there was</p> <p>22 definitely an opportunity and I believe that will be</p> <p>23 an opportunity for anybody to go online, come to the</p> <p>24 capitol, call me. Bobby, you can call me anytime or</p> <p>25 anybody can to say here's what I like or don't like.</p>	<p>Page 28</p> <p>1 are going to do everything that you can to make sure</p> <p>2 that, you know, within your — within your means —</p> <p>3 within your power to make sure that that happens</p> <p>4 rarely because they are a headache for the — for the</p> <p>5 poll workers.</p> <p>6 They're a headache for the Election</p> <p>7 Commissioners. They're confusing as heck for the</p> <p>8 voters and they're just frustrating for everybody and</p> <p>9 the candidates. So, um, I'm glad to hear that and I</p> <p>10 applaud that. Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. BECKETT: Representative Read.</p> <p>12 MR. READ: Ma'am, I think it was mentioned</p> <p>13 [inaudible] Henry and Jackson but, uh, no, talking</p> <p>14 about split precincts.</p> <p>15 We're here for Congressional and State and I'd be</p> <p>16 willing to bet you when we get through, I would just</p> <p>17 say the last time we had very, very few split</p> <p>18 precincts, not in the levels. Okay. We do ours first.</p> <p>19 We have to abide by one man, one rule just —</p> <p>20 now, what's said that's what we have to go by. Well,</p> <p>21 guess what? After can we get those things the way we</p> <p>22 want them, here comes your county government,</p> <p>23 supervisors.</p> <p>24 They have to abide by the one man one rule they</p> <p>25 have shifts in their population. They've got draw</p>
<p>Page 27</p> <p>1 And that's what we're here for and then of course</p> <p>2 at some point, we'll have to adopt, uh, as a group</p> <p>3 both the Senate and the House the various maps that</p> <p>4 would be approved.</p> <p>5 And I say, various because we have House, Senate,</p> <p>6 and as it was mentioned at the beginning, the</p> <p>7 Congressional maps. That will probably be done earlier</p> <p>8 as I think the chair said.</p> <p>9 So, there is a process. I don't want people to</p> <p>10 feel at all like they're being left out. I think I</p> <p>11 speak for every legislator by saying — in saying that</p> <p>12 we want to hear from you as this process goes forward.</p> <p>13 But good questions. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>14 MR. BECKETT: All right. Um, we have gotten a</p> <p>15 couple more questions and so, uh, Deering. I believe I</p> <p>16 got that one first so</p> <p>17 MS. DEERING: Hi gentlemen. Thank you all for</p> <p>18 coming to Adam County to Natches and to Adams County.</p> <p>19 This is so important.</p> <p>20 Um, I want to say that I echo some of the</p> <p>21 concerns, many of you concerns that you said you've</p> <p>22 heard around the state about split precincts or</p> <p>23 splitting up municipalities.</p> <p>24 Split precincts particularly, um, and I was glad</p> <p>25 to hear you say that Chairman Beckett, that you all</p>	<p>Page 29</p> <p>1 districts and it might — it probably not going to</p> <p>2 concur with what we have.</p> <p>3 Then, if you want to really get — they get</p> <p>4 theirs, then here comes the cities if there's two or</p> <p>5 three municipalities in the county and then they draw</p> <p>6 their districts according to guidelines.</p> <p>7 So, it's just about impossible not to have on the</p> <p>8 — on the municipality, split precincts in the county</p> <p>9 but at our level, we're — we will definitely be</p> <p>10 working to try to eliminate anything like that because</p> <p>11 we understand the hardship it does put.</p> <p>12 But the nature of the beast is, you know,</p> <p>13 federal, state, county and then the municipalities and</p> <p>14 then by the time everybody gets through chopping, uh,</p> <p>15 you're going to have split precincts.</p> <p>16 That's just my personal opinion because everyone</p> <p>17 has to go by certain guidelines, certain rules.</p> <p>18 certain percentages. You know, you just might like,</p> <p>19 uh, the gentlemen from Natches, was talking.</p> <p>20 You don't just draw lines. There has to be a</p> <p>21 reason you're drawing lines or what you have to keep</p> <p>22 the same ratio, same proportions.</p> <p>23 It is a very, very delicate procedure you have to</p> <p>24 go through. Now, he was talking about maybe there</p> <p>25 would be some federal legislation.</p>

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<p align="right">Page 30</p> <p>1 I don't know but right now, we're doing the best</p> <p>2 we can and I do not believe we will have split</p> <p>3 precincts on our level. If we do, it will be very,</p> <p>4 very few. But it's -- it's all on down where that</p> <p>5 really starts out. And I, you know --</p> <p>6 MR. BECKETT: The split precincts are a personal</p> <p>7 thing with me. The first time I ran, I had 23 so, um,</p> <p>8 I know I the difficulties that can cause, the vote --</p> <p>9 just the voter.</p> <p>10 If there was voter fraud, I wouldn't say it was</p> <p>11 anybody's fault. There were just mistakes made by poll</p> <p>12 workers. When you have that many split precincts,</p> <p>13 you're going to have them. Um, Ms. Holmes?</p> <p>14 MS. HOLMES: Hello. I'm Danielle Holmes with the</p> <p>15 Mississippi Poor People's Campaign. I have two</p> <p>16 questions. When will the maps be available for public</p> <p>17 viewing, um, and consideration?</p> <p>18 MR. BECKETT: Actually at this hearing, we're</p> <p>19 here to take your comments and concerns and -- and</p> <p>20 just your requests. Um, that's not information even I</p> <p>21 don't even know it at this point in time. We don't</p> <p>22 have a set -- a set time and so I couldn't answer that</p> <p>23 question.</p> <p>24 MS. HOLMES: So, once you get the set time, when</p> <p>25 will it be made available to the public or how soon</p>	<p align="right">Page 31</p> <p>1 If you're going to hold a town hall meeting, is</p> <p>2 it going to be in the newspaper? Would it come back to</p> <p>3 Alcorn State University? What form of media vehicle</p> <p>4 would you use to disseminate that information?</p> <p>5 MR. JOHNSON: These hearings are not required. It</p> <p>6 used to be under the Voting Rights Act that you had to</p> <p>7 have public hearings before you started redistricting.</p> <p>8 We're doing it as a courtesy now.</p> <p>9 But as your representative as this process goes</p> <p>10 along, because this is a very critical time, I will be</p> <p>11 hosting for our area, District 94, we're going to have</p> <p>12 some meetings about the drawing of the lines and how</p> <p>13 the Third District will be affected.</p> <p>14 I will hold those here in Adams County on those</p> <p>15 issues, but they don't have a responsibility to come</p> <p>16 back down here to do anything else. They say do it as</p> <p>17 a matter of courtesy but for information purposes, I</p> <p>18 intend to do that. I think it's important.</p> <p>19 MS. BRIDGWATER-IRVING: Thank you. And I'm</p> <p>20 sharing that because I have had a lot of concerned</p> <p>21 citizens calling and asking.</p> <p>22 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.</p> <p>23 MS. BRIDGWATER-IRVING: Um, their concerns about</p> <p>24 the redistricting. So, thank you.</p> <p>25 MR. JOHNSON: You're welcome. Mr. Chairman, could</p>
<p align="right">Page 31</p> <p>1 will it be made available for public viewing?</p> <p>2 MR. BECKETT: I mean there's not a set amount of</p> <p>3 time. There's -- there's -- the law doesn't have a set</p> <p>4 time.</p> <p>5 MS. HOLMES: Are any legislators willing to hold,</p> <p>6 um, hold hearings and community town hall forums on</p> <p>7 redistricting?</p> <p>8 MR. JOHNSON: You mean after this?</p> <p>9 MS. HOLMES: After, um-hum.</p> <p>10 MR. JOHNSON: Sure, yes. We intend to. Some of us</p> <p>11 intend to.</p> <p>12 MS. HOLMES: Some of you are.</p> <p>13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.</p> <p>14 MS. HOLMES: All right. Thanks.</p> <p>15 MR. BECKETT: Ms. Bridgewater-Irving.</p> <p>16 MS. BRIDGWATER-IRVING: Good evening and thank</p> <p>17 you for having me down front. My name is Felicia</p> <p>18 Irving and I'm in Ward Four. Redistricting would be</p> <p>19 something new for me.</p> <p>20 My first complete term going into my second term.</p> <p>21 However, she actually asked the question I had concern</p> <p>22 about. When will town hall meetings take place and are</p> <p>23 there available days so that we can gather more</p> <p>24 information on the meetings so that the public will</p> <p>25 know.</p>	<p align="right">Page 33</p> <p>1 you also give the information because I don't have</p> <p>2 this so they asked about when map would be available.</p> <p>3 But there is also a time when the public will</p> <p>4 have access to the Census information. Do you know</p> <p>5 when that will be available to them? I anticipate</p> <p>6 somebody asking me that.</p> <p>7 MR. BECKETT: Is it now? What site, what's a</p> <p>8 public site that --</p> <p>9 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I don't know how to --</p> <p>10 MALE: It's census.gov and we're beginning to put</p> <p>11 information on our website right now. We're beginning</p> <p>12 to roll the numbers out so that people will be able to</p> <p>13 take a look at the same kind of things that are on</p> <p>14 handouts and I'll be happy to provide you with the</p> <p>15 information on how to get that.</p> <p>16 MS. BRIDGWATER-IRVING: Thank you so very much.</p> <p>17 MR. BECKETT: All right.</p> <p>18 FEMALE: I have another question. Do I have to</p> <p>19 fill out another card?</p> <p>20 MR. BECKETT: If it's a question that someone</p> <p>21 might want to answer afterwards, we're really not set</p> <p>22 up to answer questions. If you have a comment or</p> <p>23 something.</p> <p>24 FEMALE: I do have a suggestion.</p> <p>25 MR. BECKETT: Okay.</p>

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<p align="right">Page 34</p> <p>1 FISHER: Can you hear me?</p> <p>2 MR. BECKETT: No, we have people viewing so if you</p> <p>3 don't mind coming down. The people in the room could</p> <p>4 probably hear you but --</p> <p>5 MS. BURNES: I first want to say that I really do</p> <p>6 appreciate you all having this hearing. I appreciate</p> <p>7 you; I appreciate the work that you do and the people</p> <p>8 that you have to deal with it. I understand.</p> <p>9 Would you help me as a -- as an individual who I</p> <p>10 said does not fully understand redistricting? I'm a</p> <p>11 very visual person. When you talk me through it, I</p> <p>12 don't get the full effects of what is happening. When</p> <p>13 you start talking about redistricting all I know is</p> <p>14 numbers.</p> <p>15 Can you when you come to these public hearings,</p> <p>16 when you offer these public hearings, allow us some</p> <p>17 visuals, for instance, and some scenarios where maybe</p> <p>18 in a PowerPoint, you show us that this particular city</p> <p>19 has this many individuals in it.</p> <p>20 When we start redistricting, and this is how they</p> <p>21 draw the lines this way, and it's totally wrong. And</p> <p>22 then you detail what is wrong with these lines that</p> <p>23 were drawn for this district. And then you show how</p> <p>24 there could be a better setup.</p> <p>25 And what would have been worthwhile for the</p>	<p align="right">Page 36</p> <p>1 and which ones have lost population. And they've kind</p> <p>2 of told and this material has what's an ideal size.</p> <p>3 So -- so you're going to know which ones have to</p> <p>4 get larger, which ones have to get smaller and if -- I</p> <p>5 know they're kind of hard to see but it does have the</p> <p>6 existing districts on there and then you're able to</p> <p>7 see based on the new population numbers, what the</p> <p>8 challenges are going to be as far as moving those</p> <p>9 people around.</p> <p>10 Now, this -- I know that's not all the</p> <p>11 information that you asked for. But that is -- that's</p> <p>12 really all the information that they have prepared in</p> <p>13 a written form.</p> <p>14 That's all the information we have right now.</p> <p>15 We're just at the very beginning of this process.</p> <p>16 MS. BURNES: Oh, I understand that. I understand</p> <p>17 that. But I'm just saying just from -- I mean this is</p> <p>18 something that I'm asking you guys to do, that I'm</p> <p>19 asking the Mississippi State Legislature to do is to</p> <p>20 appoint some individuals to develop some visuals that</p> <p>21 you can take into communities.</p> <p>22 And even when we're not redistricting, I'd say a</p> <p>23 year after we have drawn the maps or whatever, you can</p> <p>24 still offer these visuals to individuals so that for</p> <p>25 the next 10 years, they can be learning about</p>
<p align="right">Page 35</p> <p>1 majority of individuals in that community, because</p> <p>2 that's what we're looking for, right? Is what is -- is</p> <p>3 good for the majority of the individuals in that</p> <p>4 community.</p> <p>5 I'd just like to see some scenarios because I</p> <p>6 still fully don't understand what you do when you take</p> <p>7 these numbers back to the -- the boardroom and go over</p> <p>8 them and develop maps. That I would like to see, so</p> <p>9 can we do something like that?</p> <p>10 Develop some presentation that when you're</p> <p>11 talking about doing these town hall meetings and going</p> <p>12 in and talking to just the basic public, a lot of us</p> <p>13 don't fully understand what's happening.</p> <p>14 All we know is that you got redistricting, which</p> <p>15 affects voting, which affects a whole lot of economics</p> <p>16 in your community, housing, all these things. Could we</p> <p>17 -- could you help us in that respect by providing some</p> <p>18 kind of visuals?</p> <p>19 MR. BECKETT: Well, the maps that they have on</p> <p>20 the outside walls out here basically is almost all the</p> <p>21 information they've gotten so far.</p> <p>22 They -- they receive the numbers of people last</p> <p>23 Friday, uh, and they took that information and they</p> <p>24 overlaid it on our existing district so by looking at</p> <p>25 those, you can tell which ones have gained population</p>	<p align="right">Page 37</p> <p>1 redistricting and how it's done.</p> <p>2 And they will know what kind of questions to ask,</p> <p>3 because I'm still at a loss for what I need to ask or</p> <p>4 what I need to recommend to you that will fully help</p> <p>5 the community. I really need a visual.</p> <p>6 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I can tell you as a</p> <p>7 Democratic leader in the House, I intend to partner</p> <p>8 with some of my advocacy groups and put on some of</p> <p>9 whom I see here, that we're going to put on some</p> <p>10 seminars in the midst of this redistricting to explain</p> <p>11 to you and show, for instance, the committee may have</p> <p>12 a map.</p> <p>13 We're going to have an alternative map to explain</p> <p>14 to you how we come up with that, what these numbers</p> <p>15 mean? We did that. We've done that before and we'll do</p> <p>16 it again.</p> <p>17 And not as a challenge to anybody but just to be</p> <p>18 informative and to have as much input and educate the</p> <p>19 public as much as possible, but I can tell you as a</p> <p>20 Democratic leader in the House, I intend to do that.</p> <p>21 We have -- we may not be able to do it</p> <p>22 everywhere, but you certainly will have it in</p> <p>23 Southwest Mississippi and we'll have it in Hinds</p> <p>24 County and you'll have it in the Delta and some other</p> <p>25 places as well.</p>

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 MR. HOLMES: All right. Thank you. I appreciate 2 it. 3 MR. BECKETT: I've got another one. Ms. Collins? 4 MS. COLLINS: I'm a little short so I'm going to 5 lower this. Good evening. Jennifer Riley Collins here 6 in my personal capacity. 7 Gentlemen, thank you so very much for taking the 8 opportunity to hear from the public this evening. One 9 of the things that has been most transparent and clear 10 is that the public wants an opportunity to be heard, 11 uh, after the lines are drawn. 12 And so my concern, my request of this body is, 13 uh, in the day of modern technology that a website be 14 developed that would make it transparent and 15 constantly current to those persons who are 16 interested, those citizens who want to make sure that 17 their one-on-one vote, uh, is actually supported in 18 this process, that that become clear. 19 As we can see from the maps based on the current 20 Census data available, there have been great 21 population shifts in some key areas in our state. 22 And because of that trying to get to equal 23 population in each of the districts, it is going to be 24 critical for the citizenry to be able to see what the 25 legislature is proposing, so that they can have their</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 without that. With that, do I have any members of the 2 committee who would like to say anything? 3 All right. Well, this meeting stands adjourned. 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 voice heard in this process. Thank you. 2 MR. BECKETT: Thank you. Uh, I've got this 3 website. There was a question about where can some 4 census data, uh, be looked at and I want to give this 5 to you. 6 It's www.sjrc.state.ms.us. And that's -- I'm 7 going to give it to you one more time. It's 8 www.sjrc.state.ms.us. And state is s-t-a-t-e. It's 9 not abbreviated. It's spelled out. And that's the 10 location that has the Census data information. 11 All right. I want to thank you all for being here 12 and once again, I would love to thank, uh, Alcorn for 13 providing this space for us. Uh, I want to thank our 14 public for their attendance, the staff for the job 15 they've done, and just remind you that we're just in 16 the beginning of this process. 17 And that you may provide your comments, 18 suggestions or proposed plans to, uh, same address as 19 earlier. It's Ted Booth, Staff Counsel, Joint 20 Reapportionment Committee, PO Box 1204, Jackson, 21 Mississippi, 39215-1204, or send an email to 22 ted.booth@peer.ms.gov. 23 Uh, put -- and please provide your name and email 24 along with that information so that the staff can 25 follow up because they won't be able to follow up</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 2 3 I, Chris Warden, a transcriber, hereby declare 4 under penalty of perjury that to the best of my 5 ability the above 40 pages contain a full, true and 6 correct transcription of the tape-recording that I 7 received regarding the event listed on the caption on 8 page 1. 9 10 I further declare that I have no interest in the 11 event of the action. 12 13 August 25, 2021 14 Chris Warden 15  16 17 (Standing Joint Congressional Redistricting Committee, 18 Natchez, 8-16-21) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

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